



# Damanek - On Track

(2017, studio album)



01. Nanabohzo And The Rainbow - 7:59
02. Long Time Shadow Falls - 7:56
03. The Cosmic Score (Heaven Song Pt. I) - 6:03
04. Believer-Redeemer - 5:55
05. Over Oil Arabia - 5:40
06. Big Parade - 4:20
07. Madison Blue - 3:16
08. Dark Sun - 14:00

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Total time - 55:09

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- **Guy Manning** - vocals, keyboard instruments, guitar
  - **Dan Mash** - bass guitar
  - **Marek Arnold** - saxophone, clarinet
  - **Sean Timms** - keyboards, banjo, additional vocals
- and:
- **Phideaux** - vocals
  - **Antonio Vittozzi** - guitar
  - **Luke Machin** - guitar
  - **Stephen Dundon** - Flute

- **Nick Magnus** - Keyboards
  - **Ulf Reinhardt** - Drums
  - **Brody Thomas Green** - Drums
  - **Tim Irrgang** - percussion instruments
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## 1 review



- Sunday, 22 October 2017 21:40 **written by** [Gabriel Koleński](#)

If I had to go to Damanek by accident on the Internet, I would probably think that they are good musicians, they recorded a nice album, cool, I go on. Luckily, the band's debut album, entitled "On track" was received for review, which means I have to bend over it, read the press release, see who's playing there, what and for what reason. What was my surprise when it turned out that the band formed musicians quite famous in the progressive world. Guy Manning does not need to be introduced, but one of his more famous projects is under his name. Marek Arnold co-stars or appears on various albums in the most interesting German groups, including Toxic Smile, Flaming Row, Cyril, Seven Steps To The Green Door, and more recently Karibow.

Damanek is a follow-up to Manning's earlier project, Arnold and Mash, United Progressive Fraternity (UPF). Most of the material that was on "On track" was written by Guy Manning for the second UPF album, but as the project was about to crumble in the meantime, the compositions were used on Damanek's debut. Taking into account some of the members of both teams, one wonders what was the real cause of such a move. However, without going into details who with whom he gave himself after the event and why, the most important was that a very interesting board was created and that only matters in the final analysis.

"On track" is a music that is hard to unambiguously classify. Of course, there is no shortage of references to the classics of British progressive rock: the sublime keyboard parts of "Long Time Shadow Falls" are associated with Keith Emerson's work, and some arrangement arrangements and general climate in "The Cosmic Score (Heavens Song Pt. or Jethro Tull. The intensity and complexity of the rhythm section draws on the same level of more ambitious forms of rock as jazz. The "fusion" climate is complemented by the ubiquitous saxophone and clarinet, the specialty of Mark Arnold. In addition to the high level of performance and the skilful combination of styles and genres, Damanek is primarily a captivating melody, a great sensation and a groove (a horse with a row to find a neat, Polish equivalent of the word).

The diversity of this music is based not only on the richness of instrumental arrangements, but also on the many mood changes that musicians provide. Some of the songs are maintained in a moderately positive or nostalgic climate, which is very British. This is especially noticeable in the ironic "Big Parade", where the more circular and emotional chorus and the enchanting ballad "Madison Blue" appear after the circus-vaudeville prelude. Sir Paul McCartney probably spits on his beard that he never wrote it himself. Between all these elements, Damanek's musicians also covered ethnic motives, references to Africa ("Nanabohzo and the Rainbow", "Oil Over Arabia", "Dark Sun") that appear in both music and lyrics.

Very inconspicuous but surprisingly freshly sounding album. Proven patents have not been thoughtlessly played again the same or this time from the back, but very ingeniously merged into a fascinating whole. Despite the presence of Mark Arnold, Damanek does not sound like another German progressive band, which is probably due to the equalizer Guy Manning, who is the author of the main vision of the band. These few dozen minutes of very pleasant and captivating music will take you for a moment in a slightly different world and will show you the next face of famous and well-known musicians. May not be the last time.

I would definitely recommend.

**Gabriel "Gonzo" Koleński**